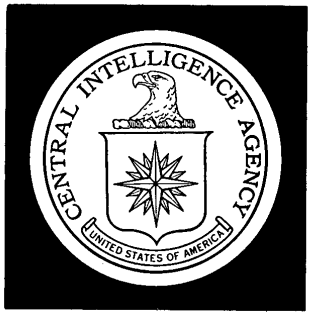
Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4




# *The President's Daily Brief*

*11 February 1971*

48

*Top Secret* 50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4



# THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 February 1971

## PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The impact of Lon Nol's illness is discussed on *Page 1.*

The situation in Laos is described on *Page 2.*

In southern Laos, the Communists are fighting rear guard actions but they may be preparing to offer stiffer resistance. *(Page 4)*

The Chinese appear to be preparing for launch operations at the Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center. *(Page 5)*

A Soviet naval force has begun another round of port visits in Cuba. *(Page 5)*



Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4



# CAMBODIA

*The prospects for Lon Nol's full or partial recovery from his stroke may not be known for several weeks. Lon Nol's younger brother, Lon Non, has told the press that convalescence would last about a month and that Deputy Prime Minister Sirik Matak will assume Nol's office for the time being.*

*Matak is an able administrator and served as acting prime minister in the early months of the Lon Nol government. Since last March he has been responsible for managing the regime's domestic business, with Lon Nol concentrating almost exclusively on military matters. Matak may be in for some tough going politically, however. Increasing criticism has been leveled at him recently by students, intellectuals, and others among the government's key supporters for his failure to stem inflation and corruption.*

*He also cannot hope to enjoy the degree of support from the military establishment built up by Lon Nol over the years.*

*As long as Matak retains Lon Nol's support, however, he should be able to preserve the political unity that has been one of the government's most important assets. Moreover, as demonstrated when he led the move to oust Sihanouk, Matak is a skilled political infighter who has the strong will necessary to keep independent-minded Cambodian officials in line.*

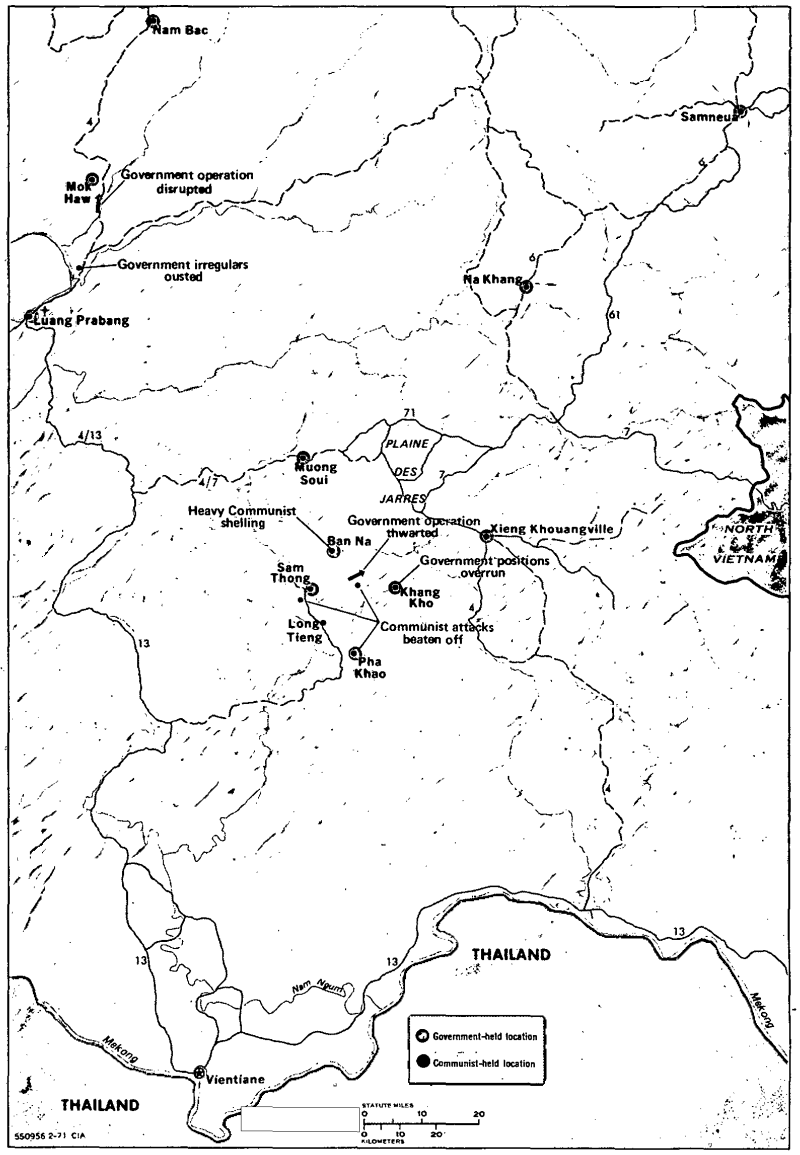
*The acting prime minister may well choose to turn over much of the responsibility for the conduct of the war to Lon Nol's two trusted subordinates, General Srey Saman, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of National Defense, and General Sak Sutsakan, Army Chief of Staff. It clearly will not be possible for Matak to give the exhausting personal attention to military affairs that Lon Nol has. Although this may result in some temporary dislocation and confusion, it may also help to foster greater military efficiency in the long run.*





Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4




50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4



## LAOS

The North Vietnamese have ousted irregular forces from Khang Kho on the eastern approaches to the Sam Thong - Long Tieng complex. The irregulars are retreating to the south; the full extent of their casualties is not yet known. Enemy action has also prevented the irregulars from recapturing positions northeast of Long Tieng lost on 7 February. At Ban Na, continued heavy Communist shelling has hampered aerial resupply and efforts to evacuate wounded.

Irregulars have repelled an attack by about 100 North Vietnamese two miles southwest of Sam Thong and a similar attack about six miles southeast of Long Tieng. About 200 irregular reinforcements are being airlifted into the latter area.

Northeast of Luang Prabang, meanwhile, government irregulars have been driven from their recently reoccupied high ground positions, including one only seven miles from the royal capital's airfield. The North Vietnamese also routed a government operation to retake positions in the Mok Haw area 30 miles northeast of Luang Prabang.

* * *

The Laotian National Security Council adopted a resolution on 9 February recommending that Souvanna declare a state of emergency and order general mobilization in all areas except the Vientiane military region. The council rejected the contention of Interior Minister Pheng Phongsavan, who chaired the meeting, that it was already too late for further military moves and that the government's best hope lay in immediate negotiations with the Communists. The cabinet is scheduled to consider the resolution today.

50X1

50X1

(continued)





Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4



[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

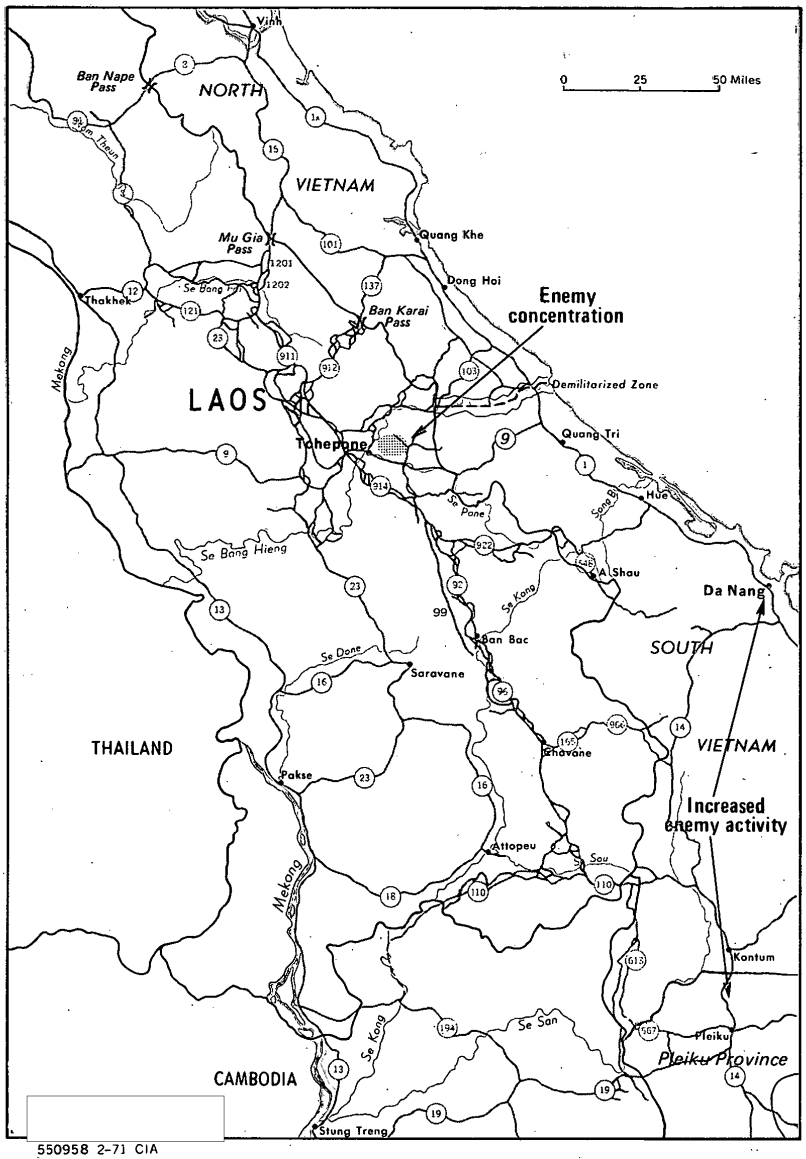
[redacted] 50X1



*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4




50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4



## LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

*For now, the Communists seem in no hurry to contest the South Vietnamese advance into eastern Laos. Enemy units are fighting rear guard actions but then pulling back to sectors where terrain and prepared fighting positions might give them more advantage. One such strongpoint appears to be developing a few miles north of Tchepone, where North Vietnamese anti-aircraft units have been digging in for several days.*

*Roughly a division of North Vietnamese regulars, concentrated in rugged terrain between the border and Tchepone, may offer stiffer resistance, however. These troops have not seriously contested allied operations so far, but as South Vietnamese lead elements move past to the west they could threaten South Vietnamese lines of communication. This North Vietnamese force was brought to division strength only in the last few days with the arrival of a regiment that had been positioned in southernmost North Vietnam.*

*Some Communist forces in South Vietnam are being told that allied operations in Laos are opening opportunities for accelerated military operations in South Vietnam. Around Da Nang, where more enemy units than usual seem to be preparing for combat, some fairly ambitious local attacks could be in the offing. There are also signs of increased enemy activity in Pleiku Province aimed at keeping the allies from moving into Communist bases in adjacent regions of Cambodia.*





Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

50X1

50X1

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4



# NOTES

Communist China: Satellite photography of the Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center's Complex B, a large complex evidently designed for space or ICBM launches, indicates the Chinese are preparing for launch operations. This photography of late January showed two trailers and signboards of the type seen at the center before China's first space launch in April 1970. A launch could occur from this site in the near future but the general appearance of the facility and the low level of activity in January do not suggest an imminent launch.

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet naval force noted earlier northeast of Bermuda (see The President's Daily Brief of 2 February) split into two groups north of Puerto Rico Tuesday and has begun a round of port visits in Cuba. A Kresta-class guided-missile cruiser and a tanker entered Havana yesterday. A submarine tender and an N-class nuclear-powered torpedo attack submarine are south of Haiti and appear to be headed for Cienfuegos. They could enter this port by early Friday. The rescue tug and the two nuclear submarine support barges that came to Cuba last September remain in Cienfuegos.





Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4

*Top Secret*

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A009200100001-4